

Minutes of the ICPAE Business Meeting on Wed 24 June 2015 26th IUGG General Assembly 2015 (Prague)

The Business Meeting, attended by ~15 persons and the IAMAS President Athena Coustenis, was opened by a welcome talk by the ICPAE President Sanjay Limaye, who after a short introduction on the role of ICPAE within IAMAS and IUGG, presented a summary of the recent ICPAE activities. Such activities included the support for "Titan through Time" Workshop in 2013 (Student travel) and the participation of ICPAE in a proposal for a IUGG Union Commission for Planetary Sciences, together with other commissions (see also Par. 2.4 below). He announced that the current Business Meeting marks a period of transition of ICPAE officers (VP and Secretary) and the rolling off of several members. In particular, the ICPAE Vice President (Leigh Fletcher) and Secretary (Darrell Strobel) for the period 2011-2015 are currently stepping down hence new officers for these positions would be elected at the conclusion of the current meeting. Sanjay Limaye anticipated also that a discussion on two proposals would also take place. It was also commented that the smaller attendance -with respect to previous meetings- at the combined sessions M08/M09 of the 26th IUGG General Assembly 2015 was due to mission activities going on during this exact period.

2.1. Events and milestones since the DACA-2013

- Venus Express mission ended on 27 November 2014 and spacecraft became part of the atmosphere in January 2015
- New Horizons mission has reached Pluto's environment and will proceed to the Kuiper Belt after close approach
- Cassini is continuing observations of Saturn System
- Mangalyaan, a technical demonstration mission from ISRO entered Mars orbit in September 2014 and is now collecting data
- Rosetta arrived at comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko and on 12 Nov 2014 it soft-landed its Philae probe on the comet, the first time in history that such an extraordinary feat has been achieved.

2.2. Nomination and election of new ICPAE members

During the meeting, the following persons were nominated for becoming ICPAE members:

- Iannis Dandouras (IRAP, France),
- Davide Grassi (INAF-IAPS, Italy),
- Takeshi Kuroda (Tohoku University, Japan),
- Christina Plainaki (INAF-IAPS, Italy)

Members present approved the above-mentioned nominations. The current number of ICPAE members, therefore, is 43. A list of the current ICPAE members is provided as an attachment to this document.

2.3. Nomination and election of new ICPAE Officers

After a public acknowledgement to previous ICPAE officers Leigh Fletcher (Vice President) and Darrell Strobel (Secretary), Sanjay Limaye put forward the following nominations for the ICPAE officers positions:

- Feng Tian (Tsinghua University, Cina) nominated for the position of Vice President,
- Christina Plainaki (INAF-IAPS, Italy) nominated for the position of Secretary

After the question by Sanjay Limaye to those assembled whether there was any reason for the Commission not to proceed to the acceptance of the suggested new officers, the above-mentioned nominations were accepted without any issue.

2.4. Proposals

Two proposals were discussed during the meeting:

1. Proposal for a new IUGG Union Commission for Planetary Sciences
2. Proposal for a new IAMAS/ICPAE Working Group on Planetary Climate and Habitability

Considering the first proposal, ICPAE is participating in it together with other commissions. The proposal was being considered by the IUGG council. The communication received after the IUGG council meeting indicated that the commission was approved in principal with the terms of reference to be defined in the coming weeks/months.

The second proposal was made by Feng Tian who underlined that according to the IAMAS Statutes and Regulations, the establishment of a working group (or of a Sub-commission or of a Committee) within a IAMAS Commission (like ICPAE), may be appointed by the Commission itself, at the discretion of its President.

It was emphasized that such a IAMAS/Commission Working Group is different in its structure from a IUGG Union Commission Working Group¹ as well as from an Inter-Association Activities Working Group².

Feng Tian presented in detail his idea focusing in the scientific field of search for habitability at exoplanetary systems and evidencing the need, in the international scientific community, to have a better consensus on this subject. Feng Tian also said that a similar proposal for working group has been already submitted to IAU.

The presentation by Feng Tian was followed by a discussion in which the concept of studying habitability starting firstly from our own Solar System and then extending these studies to the exoplanets systems, was analyzed. Furthermore, it was mentioned that since IUGG focuses mainly to Earth and Geophysical sciences it would be better to introduce the habitability WG in terms of solar system planets and satellites as well as exoplanets.

No formal action was taken about the second proposal.

2.5. Next ICPAE meetings

An appointment for the ICPAE members was set at IAMAS 2017 – Cape Town, S. Africa, in August 2017.

¹ see for example <http://www.iugg.org/administration/structure.php>

² see for example <http://www.iugg.org/associations/inter-associations.php>

2.6. Action Items

Action Items	Due date
Update of the ICPAE members list and distribution of it among the ICPAE community	July 2015
Update the ICPAE website (to be accomplished in the next months)	next months
Discuss session themes and co-sponsoring Commissions for future meetings	next months
Discuss Meeting support (IUGG and IAMAS)	next months

Acknowledgements: Special thanks to Leigh Fletcher for providing the updated ICPAE members list.

Christina Plainaki, Sanjay Limaye, Feng Tian
July 2015